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OIL SPILL PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAM WORK PLAN

April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007

1. Vessel Safety Training:

Problem/Opportunity: The fishing industry is one of the most dangerous occupations in the U.S. With the expansion of marine tourism, an influx new operators and passengers are also becoming susceptible to these dangers. There are few training opportunities outside of the immediate Puget Sound area to receive safety training.

Continue to participate in vessel safety training programs and leverage these contacts to provide oil spill prevention materials to remote location and elusive audiences. Use enhanced training aids to better illustrate some of the sea survival concepts and present more graphic presentations of safety materials. Consider expanding WSGP safety training to recreational boaters under new Washington Mandatory Boater Education program.

2. Pacific Coast Congress of Harbomasters and Port Managers:

Problem/Opportunity: Harbormasters, marina managers and port operators can benefit tremendously from quality educational programs that address the concerns of this industry. The Pacific Coast Congress of Harbormasters, PCC, serves as a non-advocacy voice for this industry and offers access to hundreds of marina and port managers and consequently thousands of boat operators.

Continue to provide leadership and contribute to the PCC to ensure quality programs and networking that enhance management finesse and environmental stewardship. Maintain level of credibility and trust among the PCC membership to institute spill prevention programs among boating public and commercial operators. Serve as chair of PCC Training & Education Committee as long as it provides the access and opportunities to further WSGP oil spill prevention objectives.

Participate in two PCC Conferences: Astoria, OR and Friday Harbor, WA
Offer pollution prevention presentations at semi-annual conferences and address pollution issues through facilitated discussions and on-line networking.
Use PCC RangeMarker newsletter and PCC net to disseminate spill prevention information and to get feedback on marina/boating pollution issues.

Work with University of Alaska Distance Education Specialists to develop and implement on-line pollution prevention course module aimed at marina operators and staff. This is a great opportunity to tap into existing resources to finally move forward with oil spill prevention distance learning and to explore possible applications to other outreach opportunities.

3. Pollution and the Shellfish Industry

Problem/Opportunity: The shellfish industry is extremely vulnerable to oil spills contaminating their beds. The sources of this oil can be from large catastrophic spills or from small insidious operational spills from their own or adjacent operations. There is currently no oil spill response mechanism in place to protect beds nor any spill prevention plan to address internal threats.

Work with Puget Sound Shellfish Institute and Pacific Shellfish Growers Association to develop an effective oil spill preparedness posture. Provide technical assistance and guidance in the development of response plans and grower training. Use grant funding to offset WSGP expenses in addressing these spill related issues..

Provide program updates and oil spill prevention presentations and annual WSGP/PSI-sponsored and PSGA shellfish conferences, as appropriate. Distribute oil spill prevention education materials.

4. Clean Marina Programs:

Problem/Opportunity: There is no statewide incentive/recognition program to encourage marina operators to adopt environmental best management practices and to ensure they are in compliance with state and federal pollution prevention regulations.

Continue to serve on the Clean Marina Partnership to expedite the development of a statewide Clean Marina Program. Ensure that Clean Marina concept is translated into a sound and effective certification program. Provide onsite inspections and technical visits to selected marinas: Port of Everett, Port of Edmonds, Cape Sante, Anacortes.

Reconnect with national Sea Grant Clean Marina effort. Discuss merits of participating in these forums.

Draw from PIE grant funding to reimburse WSGP expenses in carrying out many of the Clean Marina certification procedures and Partnership activities. The tempo of the program is increasing and over the next several months will require numerous site visits and administrative work to fulfill this commitment.

5. Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team, POSPET

Problem/Opportunity: Oil spill prevention efforts are usually focused on either local or on statewide concerns. POSPET recognizes that oil spills are a regional problem and was organized to draw together critical oil spill prevention resources from CA, OR, WA and BC to address these pollution issues. POSPET ensures consistency and accuracy of spill prevention information relies on regional talent and resources to fund, produce and distribute educational materials. This

logical and potent approach enhances individual programs while offering benefits of networking and feedback to ensure effective regional spill prevention campaigns.

Continue serving as POSPET chair and facilitate a minimum of two meetings during planning period. Provide the necessary leadership to ensure continued growth and recognition of POSPET regionally and secure additional regional and national support for these spill prevention projects. Maintain the promotion of the "OILS-911" spill reporting number and of an effective "Spills Aren't Slick" campaign as central to POSPET spill prevention educational activities.

Explore potential for gaining industry support through Boat/U.S. Initial contacts make this look promising.

6. Small Oil Spill Research:

Problem/Opportunity: There is an apparent need to collect baseline data beyond anecdotal evidence to support the premise that small oil spills are cumulative and persistent and are detrimental to nearshore habitats.

Conduct a comprehensive literature search to determine the impacts of various types and sizes of petroleum product spills. Develop an action plan that describes the objectives and limitations of this study and identifies the preliminary sources of information and any access issues to securing necessary data. Analysis of the this data would provide a fuller understanding of the magnitude and extent of the small spill problem and provide a more quantified rationale for increasing and more accurately focusing spill prevention efforts.

To compliment the collection and analysis of existing data, research is needed to determine which marine habitats are being impacted by small spills and what boating and other marine activities cause the most environmental damage. Through water sampling, surveys and interviews, information can be gathered to help identify the physical, chemical and biological mechanisms that cause oil spills to persist and damage habitats and to help assess the effectiveness of educational strategies and marina/boating best management practices. This data would assist in identifying environmental "hot spots" and provide the science-based evidence needed to gain support for remedial actions.

This research effort would need additional funding and staff support. At a minimum, a research proposal could be developed for submission to secure this support.

7. Presentations/Collaboration/Cooperation:

Problem/Opportunity: There is a constant need to provide valid oil spill prevention information to diverse audiences and to ensure that spill prevention

programs inform audiences of their stewardship responsibilities and of risks in spill preparedness and response activities.

Upon completion and issuance of the new WADOE fuel transfer rules there will be a need to provide outreach to impacted audiences. Hopefully WADOE will recognize the value of WSGP expertise and contacts to provide support for this education/outreach effort. Will use my PCC position to disseminate necessary information and provide presentation opportunity for WADOE at next PCC conference. Assist with development of a Fuel Transfer Training program for the Port of Bellingham. Convert to a more generic training version for use by all Washington State ports, marinas and other fueling facilities.

Contact all marine, technical and trade colleges/schools in coastal Washington to offer oil spill prevention training. Students enrolled in technical courses (i.e., welding, engine repair, boat handling, engineering, hydraulic systems, refrigeration, etc.) could very well use these skills on the waterfront or aboard boats or at boatyards throughout the state. This seems like an opportune time to introduce basic spill prevention to a group that may become involved in an identified source of pollution-prone maintenance/repair activities.

Provide presentations to a variety of groups throughout the marine industry and other sectors (K-12, recreational boaters, public, etc.)

Maintain position on NMTA marina committee to provide pollution prevention information for marina managers and operations and maintenance staff.

Participate in 2006 Pacific Marine Exposition. Distribute over oil spill prevention kits and conduct “one-on-one” discussions with participants about oil spill issues.

Address need for additional spill prevention educational materials. Revise Spill Kits and explore alternatives to assemble and distribute.

Professional Development and Miscellaneous

Continue to enhance my technical knowledge and my communication skills to strengthen my abilities as a specialist and as an instructor and presenter.

Take additional courses to enhance my skills in applying distance learning to oil spill program and get trained in GIS to better understand how these techniques can be applied to oil spill training and research.

Continue to support my WSGP colleagues in their program pursuits and look for ways to collaborate to enhance common water quality objectives.